

# THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 18 October 21, 1999

*Far from the maddening crowd since 1911*

## the hunt begins...



9:00



9:01

Bibliophiles swarm as  
the McGill Book Fair  
opens. Story on pg. 4



9:02

### NEWS-

Poor wording in SSMU letter raises  
ire of BSN - pg. 2

### CULTURE-

Tara Maclean stands out from the crowd -  
pg. 10



# Poor SSMU Wording Angers Black Student Network

*Conference dismissed as having 'no direct impact on McGill community'*

By MEHREEN KHALFAN

The Black Student Network (BSN) took issue this week with a letter from SSMU suggesting that a student-led initiative relating to the African Studies Program had no direct impact on the McGill Community. The proposed Africana Studies Congress, scheduled for February, is to bring together about 600 students, members of the Montreal community, and academics from across Canada to improve and expand the inadequate African Studies Program at McGill.

SSMU Treasurer Essie Mwanwenda, in a letter responding to the BSN's request for funding, cut the conference budget to zero, saying that the conference had "no direct impact on the McGill community." She suggested the BSN apply for funding under a Special Projects Fund. SSMU VP Clubs and Services Sam Gross, said that, through the Special Projects Fund, "we (SSMU) will definitely fund Africana 2000," although she could not say how much money they would get.

Regardless of how or how much the Congress will be funded, executives at the BSN are infuriated by the comment on the letter. They are particularly alarmed that an attempt to remedy the almost complete exclusion of the African continent from the academic curriculum is not seen by SSMU as an issue of relevance to the McGill community. "The BSN would like to hope that it is not the position of SSMU that the inclusion of the African continent into the curriculum of this university will have no direct impact on the community," said Akinunwi Alaga, BSN Political Coordinator.

## MISUNDERSTANDING

But Kevin McPhee, VP Operations for SSMU, denies that the SSMU Finance Committee or treasurer feel that the proposed congress is unimportant. "The

Africana Studies Congress is important, we were by no means saying that it was not relevant to the McGill community. Giving the BSN a lot more money than previous years would destroy the budget history and the ability to budget well next year" he said.

"What we talked about in the committee and what should have been addressed in the letter was that we would like the BSN to get some of the funding from other sources and apply to the Special Projects Fund, which is more appropriate for one-time events like this. I read the letter (from the treasurer to the BSN) myself and it does seem to carry that perception (that the Congress is irrelevant to the McGill community), but I can guarantee you that it was a misunderstanding," he added.

## AN INSULT

Esigie Aguele, Coordinator of the International African Students Association in 1997 and 1998, and former chief of staff for the student government of Howard University in Washington is deeply angered by the comment in the SSMU letter. "It's an insult. It's ridiculous for an overall student body to tell a group of students that their projects are irrelevant to the community," he said.

"Whoever made that decision and wrote that letter apparently feels that black students are irrelevant and that they should accept whatever programs the Students' Society considers important. It doesn't matter if you get zero money or ten thousand dollars; it's the reasoning. That's what BSN is trying to change - how people perceive and understand Africa. This kind of statement (that it has no direct impact) should never be made. Our cultures, values, dreams and diversity should never be overlooked."

Over recent years, students have struggled to protect the African Studies Program. In 1994, a move to scale down the program to a minor was met with strong opposition and with the formation by BSN of the Africana Studies Committee (ASC), which was successful in maintaining the African Studies major.

According to Associate Professor of History (Africa), Myron J. Echenberg, the program has been in crisis mode for a long time. He repudiates the idea that the proposed Africana Studies Congress will affect only a few people or is unnecessary. "We have lost key faculty members in the last 3 or 4 years and we haven't had replacements. Students feel that loss. In a world that is no longer eurocentric, our entire curriculum needs more and more to reflect the fact that this is a pluralist society. This extends beyond specific students who may be African Studies majors or of African heritage - it has wider implications" he said.

"We all benefit when something of worth happens on campus...there's an alarming tendency to write off Africa's problems as insurmountable," he added.

## NOT STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT

Alaga also elaborated on some specific problems. "The program is interdisciplinary, so, for instance, we don't have an Africanist in the political science department, therefore someone doing an African Studies major cannot study African politics. It is the general state in Canadian universities that they are not very inclusive of Africa especially since 1991 at the end of the cold war when Africa was no longer seen as strategically important and it was no longer important to have any researchers on Africa. What's happening at McGill is symptomatic of a general Canadian University malaise."

# Grad Students Respond to Controversial Paper

*PGSS supports more funding, condemns differential tuition*

By JON BRICKER

The Post-Graduate Students' Society joined the Law Students Association and a number of other campus groups on Tuesday in submitting their response to a recent controversial administration discussion paper.

Tradition and Innovation, an administration manifesto prepared for the Ministry of Education detailing goals for provincial funding. While PGSS expressed support for the document in its broader goal of encouraging reinvestment by Quebec, it also criticized several key points of the paper, calling it a serious threat to already cash-strapped grad students and the academic integrity of McGill's internship programs.

"We had a generally positive response to

Drent attacked the administration's argument, which says is based on the notion of professional program students being guaranteed a good income. Drent says that this argument discourages students interested in taking often low-paying jobs in humanitarian law. "You're predetermining the kind of students that will come out of these programs," she said.

Drent added that the fees are unfair because they assume that students finish their programs and have an easy time finding jobs upon graduation.

Déry was also concerned with the aspects of the document that called for more industry internships. "We don't want industry to come in and say the research that should be

**"We contend that differential fees do discourage students from lower socio-economic backgrounds from striving to enter into competitive programs that also have a higher price tag"**

the document," said PGSS Coordinator University and Academic Affairs, Stephen Déry. "But we also had a number of concerns with the proposals."

Déry said that the PGSS supports academic proposals that emphasize funding on research and other programs which benefit grad students such as hiring more teaching assistants.

But while support for the spirit of the discussion paper made up part of the response, the PGSS condemned the paper's call for differential tuition and internships that they say could easily put academic freedom in the hands of big business.

"We contend that differential fees do discourage students from lower socio-economic backgrounds from striving to enter into competitive programs that also have a higher price tag," said the PGSS in their response.

Déry says that not only would higher fees for professional programs like Law, Medicine, and other grad programs, jeopardize accessibility, but they would also discourage many strong candidates, while worsening the situation for already debt-burdened grad students.

"The high fees will not motivate students to come to McGill," he explained. "These fees encourage bad debt."

But McGill administration preferred to steer the focus away from the issue of differential tuition. "Focusing on that is focusing on a tiny part of the document," said Luc Vinet, McGill's VP Academic. "Attaching low tuition to accessibility is a thing of the past," he said, defending the paper that also calls for higher tuition across the board.

Earlier this month, the Law Students Association also criticized the call for differential tuition. LSA President Elizabeth

done at McGill is this," he said. "We are very concerned about privatization," he added, referring to the document's comparisons of McGill to Biochem, Pharma, and Bombardier.

He says that the focus on industry for new internships is too narrow. "There are other kinds of research that need to be done," he said, noting that it would be too easy for industries to take advantage of these programs and choose directions for academic research. "Certain fields might not contribute so directly to the economy, but they still need to be studied," he said.

"Grad students also demand a reinvestment in libraries," Déry said, an issue that the discussion paper makes little mention of. "There's a major crisis with the libraries and that's not even evident in the document," he said.

While PGSS supported the general call for more government funding of Quebec's post-secondary institutions, their response suggested that the \$500 million demand made in the document doesn't go far enough. The Canadian Federation of Students, of which PGSS is a member, has demanded a \$1.9 billion reinvestment.

Déry, who sits on the Senate special steering committee that is overseeing the follow-up to the initial paper, is optimistic that the PGSS and other campus voices will be heard on at least some points. The committee is now accepting responses and is waiting on a response from the government to the draft submitted last month. The committee plans to collect responses in the weeks to come and plans to have a final proposal to put to Senate in the coming weeks.

"I'm expecting the debate with Senate to be fairly heated," Vinet said.

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THE MCGILL DAILY

**He doesn't know art.**  
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THE ART DUMMY

Thursdays in

THE MCGILL DAILY



# The Forgotten Pseudo-Democracy

Emily Lau speaks about Hong Kong's current state of affairs

BY SEAN CARRIE

At the invitation of Royal Victoria College, Hong Kong Legislative Councillor Emily Lau delivered a speech last Monday which carried an important message.

Lau called on the polite crowd gathered at the MacDonald-Harrington Building to re-examine the so-called democracy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Either by the design of Beijing autocracy or the fickleness of the Western media, all interest in Hong Kong's progress as a Chinese possession was lost from the moment the handover hangovers subsided and CNN found a different ratings winner.

In July of 1997, Beijing installed a provisional legislature whose year-long commitment to changing nothing convinced investors and many residents that all was well in the former Crown colony. Lulled into complacency, people failed to realize that the establishment of a provisional legislature "caused a disenfranchisement of the Hong Kong people," Lau said.

By the time elections rolled around in 1998, people had lost interest in the democratic future of Hong Kong, and the fact that only 20 of 60 members of the new legislative council (LegCo) were elected by universal suffrage was ignored. More disturbing was the fact that 30 of the LegCo seats were filled by people running in functional constituencies, the bulk of whose elite members are those with a vested commercial interest in having a pro-Beijing stance.

A further insult to the "democracy" in place in Hong Kong is the makeup of the final ten seats in the LegCo. Elections to the seats are done by an 800-member election committee composed of those members of the functional constituencies most dedicated to toeing the party line. Obviously, when it comes to making important legislative decisions, the 20 genuinely elected councillors, who represent 95 per cent of Hong

Kong's voters, will be all but silenced.

Lau's persistent criticism of the progress of democracy in Hong Kong has earned her a ban on travel to mainland China, and the Beijing government has done its best to try to keep her from speaking on the issue outside of the Special Administrative Region. "We are seen as pariahs," she said of herself and the handful of other democratically elected LegCo members, a group which includes community-minded Martin Lee and Christine Loh. Tung Chee-Hwa, the Beijing-appointed chief executive, has attempted to further subdue the voice of the Hong Kong people by pushing for the abolishment of the elected urban and regional councils, bodies which represent a more regional level of government within the territory. "Mr. Tung hates elected officials," Lau said, adding that Tung was desperate to undermine the few that Hong Kong still has. "He wishes to dispel justice," she noted disconsolately.

She has spoken to many high-profile western leaders and diplomats, including President Bill Clinton and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, and found that they empathize with the plight of democracy in Hong Kong. Lau admitted, however, that there is simply nothing they can do if they want to stay in China's good books. She urged those present, and Canadians as a whole, in "a country which professes to care about human rights," to simply let their elected representatives know that they're aware of the situation. "The Chinese government listens closely to public opinion," she said, adding that they are very sensitive even to foreign opinion. Lau asked Canadians to "take action, pay attention to what's happening internationally."

Responding to questions as to where China was taking Hong Kong, she said that, with all honesty, she didn't know. She said



Hong Kong legislator Emily Lau

that for the SAR, above all, "I would like to have self-determination," and assured those present that she and other pro-democratic legislators were doing their utmost to get the word out among the traditionally non-political Hong Kong Chinese. Things look glum, however, after the chief of Radio Television Hong Kong (the SAR's version of the CBC), Cheung Man-Yee, a strong critic of the government, was unilaterally transferred on Tuesday to a trade position in Tokyo, from where she can make little noise.

Experience has taught her another valuable lesson, which she related throughout her address: don't take democracy for granted. "I'm not blind to the problems of democracy, but I'm saying that it is a far sight better than what we have, which is a government which is imposed on us." She urged those who are so privileged as to live in a democracy like Canada to remain interested and involved in elections and referenda. "Shying away, opting out of the process is fatal," she asserted.

## Briefs

### MUMIA-911

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former member of the Black Panther Party and an award-winning journalist, has spent the past 17 years of his life on death row. Mumia has maintained, since his incarceration, that he is innocent of the crime for which he was convicted, the murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The huge ranks of Mumia supporters and activists have maintained that the courtroom that sentenced Mumia to death was marred by police-coerced witnesses, the suppression of vital evidence, and the misappropriation of judicial power.

Following Mumia's most recent attempt at an appeal, which was denied by the United States Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed Mumia's death warrant. In doing so, he set a date of December 2 for Mumia's execution. Almost two decades after the case began, the prisoner has been sentenced to

die for allegations he was never given a chance to disprove.

In the words of activist Pam Africa, "Mumia is a freedom-fighter and has been a freedom-fighter since his young teenage days. He has always been front-line, up-front, and honest, and this is what has brought people in."

As time is of the absolute essence in their campaign, activists at McGill and around the world are mobilizing in a push for a government stay of execution. In Montreal, the Free Mumia Coalition will be holding a demonstration on Saturday, October 23, on the corner of Guy and St. Catherine at 1 pm. If you would like more information or give a damn about justice you can reach the Free Mumia Coalition at 844-3207.

-Tal Pinchevsky

### McGILL BOGGER TAKES OVER CBC

McGill got a voice in Canadian Broadcasting this week after board of gov-

ernors chair Robert Rabinovitch, who is also a McGill grad, got the call from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to assume the vacant CBC presidency.

Rabinovitch makes the jump from the private sector where he was chief operating officer of Claridge Inc. His career has seen him hold down posts as a deputy minister in the federal government and as a member of the Privy Council. He also had a kick at the CRTC chairpersonship in 1996 and turned down the CBC presidency in 1995. He sits on boards at Netstar and Cineplex Odeon. He was named to McGill's board of governors in 1997 and assumed its chairpersonship in July of this year.

The CBC opportunity, Rabinovitch says, will have him take a look at the broadcaster's recent call to expand the number of channels it operates. He joins the ranks of high profile McGill governors that include Royal Bank CEO John Cleghorn and International Olympic Committee second-in-command and McGill chancellor, Dick Pound.

-Jon Bricker

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PRESENTS

LEGENDS OF HALLOW'S EVE

1. SAMHAIN (PRONUNCIATION « SAAH-WIN »)

It is believed that the tradition of Hallow's Eve or Halloween, evolved from the Celtic New Year, a celebration also called Samhain. This festival originated around 500 B.C. marking the end of one season, and the beginning of the next. When harvest ended, weather turned cold and daylight started to wane - the Dark Half of the year was ushered in with drink, food, music and dance. Legend has it that on October 31, when the boundary between the two seasons was at its weakest, the Banshee wailed and the spirits of the dead were free to wander the earth.

Who knows? Perhaps we'll have some visitors tonight...



Join us for more legends next week

At The Daily, we like big ideas.  
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THE MCGILL DAILY

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# Book Fair People Poll

BY BEN ERRETT AND CÉLINE HEINBECKER

**B**ibliophiles jostled and elbowed to get the goods yesterday as the McGill Book Fair opened its doors. The annual event, run by the Women Associates of McGill and the Women's Alumni Association, is in its 28th year, and the crowds were a testament to its popularity. Organizer June Hood said that she was "very pleased with the turnout, especially considering the weather." Over \$900,000 was raised last year, with all proceeds donated to scholarships and bursaries. The fair draws book dealers and book lovers from all over the Northeast with the lure of rare first editions at rock-bottom prices. The Daily spoke to some of the people waiting in line outside Redpath Hall before 9 a.m. yesterday.



**Name:** Ben Moran

**Interests:** "Anything really. I'm looking for some good buys. I'm ready to spend up to \$30 if I can get a whole bunch of books. I only buy books secondhand 'cause it's a rip-off otherwise."



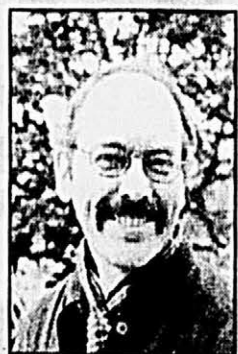
**Name:** Dave Lewkowich

**Interests:** "I don't know. I came last year and it was good....There are some things that I am looking for, books that may interest me. I mean, people travel from Honolulu to come to this sale, right?"



**Name:** Luc Amyott

**Interests:** "Mathematics textbooks. I've been here once before. The first time I came, it was haphazardly: I just dropped by. This year I had a hard time finding the date. It wasn't on the McGill website."



**Name:** Marr (an admitted assumed name)

**Interests:** "I'm looking for Jerzy Kosinski books, if I can find any. He wrote Being There, and about thirty other books. I'm looking for Bukowski, maybe. You know who I mean by that? Charles Bukowski: poet, drunk. But the prize, if I can find it, is a copy of Fight Club, which is not available anywhere. I've been looking. I've been everywhere in this city. I've been on the internet. The cheapest copy I've found is 40 bucks American, for a paperback. Then add postage, and in Canadian! It's supposed to come out here one of these days."



**Name:** François Dussaud

**Interests:** "I'm looking for books on photography. I've been coming to the sale for three years. Each year I come sooner!"



**Name:** Hadji Bakara

**Interests:** "I'm looking for St. Genet. I found it last year, but someone stole it from me... and the entire Sartre canon. I'd like to find Conversation with Professor Wye, but I know I never will. Maybe some posthumous Hemingway on fishing?"

**Names:** Don Peck, with friend Teresa Morales

**Interests:** "I'm here mostly to get books pertaining to English teaching, basically for my own reference. This lady is here from Cuba, doing research in Montreal, and she's also doing research in that area."



**Name:** Spanky Horowitz, food critic for the Montreal Mirror

**Interests:** "Cookbooks. Old cookbooks, as in pre-1960s, 50s, 40s, 30s, 20s, 1800s....I'm not a collector like with trading cards; I'm just interested in old-time cookery. I'll see if there's any good treasures. I'm not willing to pay top dollar, but hopefully this kind of book sale will have them at a pretty good price, so I can actually buy one to use in the kitchen to cook. I'm only here this early because I slept at my girlfriend's house and she had to get up early for work. Otherwise I would have slept in."

*The Book Fair concludes tonight at 9 pm.*

## GOTO HELL

# HELL'S KITCHEN

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# Letter to the Editor

## DAILY SCIENCE COVERAGE PRAISED

I would like to congratulate The Daily on your excellent science coverage. The articles on Biosphere II, Dr. Eugenie Scott's lecture and your series on biotechnology and genetically modified food provide the kind of news that a university renowned in the sciences deserves. Keep up the good work.

Professor R.L.L. Guthrie  
Mining and Metallurgical Engineering

*The McGill Daily welcomes letters to the editor and comments from readers on the Commentary pages. Letters must be less than 300 words, while Hyde Parks should be less than 500 words. Drop your contributions off in Skatner B-03 or email to mcgilldaily@bot-mail.com*

# Comment

# Silver Jumpsuits and Robots

*The future ain't what it's cracked up to be*

BY CHRIS BOUTET

EDMONTON (CUP) - I gotta tell you, I can't wait. Here we stand on the edge of a new millenium, just months away from an age of silver jumpsuits, moon colonies, and robot servants who make toast for you in the morning while you sleep.

It's going to be a fantastic new world, according to the Popular Science magazines of the '50s and early '60s. But as 1999 winds down to an anti-climactic close, it's beginning to appear that we've got some catching up to do. Because, as we all know, there is no way that those magazines were wrong.

We are the ones who started slack-off the predetermined course of

amazing inventions sometime in the '80s. Mostly we failed terribly in the field of robots.

Back when I was a kid, the best robot you could get was a crappy little owl from Radio Shack called HootBot. It was poorly made and broke the day after Christmas, but man, could it hoot! It would just sit there and flap its little robot wings, move its little robot head back and forth, hooting like an owl on speedballs.

Great work, Mr Scientists.

I think what impeded the forward movement in robotics was people's inherent fear of what they can't control. We seem to think that as soon as we

give robots a task any more menial than building cars and feeding monkeys in cages, they'll go berserk and take over mankind.

Well, yeah, if you program them to kill things. But robots don't want to kill. They want to make toast, really well. Nothing could make a robot happier than when you grab a nice, hot slice of toast from its air-compressed claws, take a big bite and run out the door to do whatever the hell it is you do. Trust me.

About the worst thing that could ever happen is if some mad scientist programmed all the robots in the world to really like the music of Kim

Mitchell.

Well, I'm not going to sit idly by when there's work to be done. I've already got a helmet with rocket fins and a remote control that could be misconstrued for a laser gun in poor lighting.

Then there's my stack of Popular Science magazines, which I read like a really spacey, illustrated version of the Bible. So you just go right ahead and drool lazily in front of the TV in your underwear, drunk off your ass at 9 in the morning.

We futurists have to be eating steak that looks like toothpaste and living in collapsible mobile homes by next Wednesday.

## THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume LXXXIX Number 18

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Printed on 20% recycled paper.  
ISSN 1192-1608

## ON TRACK & ON CRACK

### On Track:

**Clare Jennings**, Clubs and Services Rep for the SSMU, for proposing that the Students' Society endorse the enforcement of international human rights, by supporting Britain's move to extradite former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. If only there could be more like Clare...

### On Crack:

SSMU Treasurer **Essie Mwamwenda**, who said in a letter to the Black Student's Network that the conference they plan to hold in February on the future of the African Studies Program at McGill has "no direct impact on the McGill community."

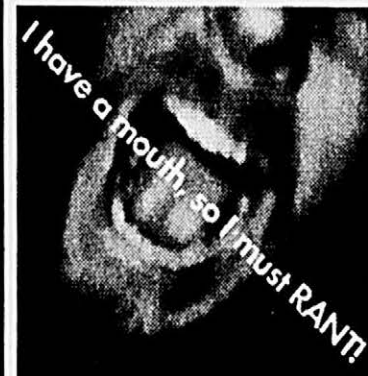
## Slibel & Lander

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

It must be time for SSMU primaries, because SSMU's own one-platform man and VP Community and Government Affairs **Wojtek Baraniak** has designs on the student presidency, with elections only six months away. Nothing's gonna stop him now; nothing that is, unless the evil powers-that-be behind "discriminatory tuition" keep 'em down. Suggested running mate? That cute fuzzy pooch Wojtek can be seen with on a campus near you... Slibel & Lander would like to apologize for the brash statements made in the Daily on Monday criticizing the oil company that is the SSMU executive hair salon. We realized our error just the other day as VP **Sam Gross** made a regal entrance into the Shatner building. Her flowing, golden locks glistening in the sun made us drop to our knees in adoration, reminding us just how important a

great head of hair is to great student leadership. Bravo!..... Perk up, Xavier! Can't seem to figure out why, but it seems SSMU VP University Affairs **Xavier Van Chau** has been a tad grumpy of late. Maybe it's because of the whole sex scandal thing that the Daily scooped, but boy oh boy, what a baby. Surely the big SSMU bucks we pay him earn us a smile? If you can't take the heat..... QPIRGers may be surprised to learn that **Bernard J. Shapiro**, the Prince of Privatization himself, is a vegan. How he managed at Ruby Foo's we don't know...

If you have any tidbits of bearsay or morsels of scandal, please forward them over to [slibel\\_lander@hotmail.com](mailto:slibel_lander@hotmail.com). We'll guarantee your anonymity, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped liberate a piece of gossip that just shouldn't have been contained.



### Television.

It helped raise you (and me for that matter) and it never abandons you in your hour of need.

It is one of the most important inventions of the 20th century.

It is also one of the most upsetting things in my life.

I often find myself on my knees in front of the set at home. No, I'm not praying. Usually I'm yelling at the news. Often about the stupidity of the Western governments and their inability to act consistently when it comes to peace keeping, human rights, and foreign trade ("Bomb the bastards!" has been know to slip from my mouth).

Mostly though, what pisses me off is the ads. While most of you are running for the john or the fridge, I start paying attention.

Currently, the ad that makes me the most annoyed is one for Canada Post.

It's part of their recent "even though we're slow as mud, damage your packages and letters, and lose 10 per cent of them, we're still better than e-mail" campaign (all statistics are made up). I'll concede sending packages by the internet is impossible, but this ad still drives me nuts.

A customer approaches the friendly, attractive, helpful Canada Post employee and inquires if they deliver packages, "as far as Iqaluit?"

AAAAARRRRRGGGGGHHHHHHHHHH!!!! It's called Canada Post, not Southern Canada Post, or Provincial Canada Post or even We-deliver-wherever-the-hell-we-feel-like-it-Post (though, given the way I receive my neighbour's mail, a name change may be in order). The employee

says yes (without even a hint of sarcasm), you understand that the customer leaves and a management looking guy comes over to chat. (Yet another oddity. In most post offices, if management looks sideways at the counter staff, grievances start flying faster than the speed of sound).

Let's leave aside the obvious problems with the friendly, attractive, helpful Canada Post employee (truth in advertising anyone?) and deal with the real problem with this ad.

Nothing you see on TV, with the possible exception of community-access shows, happens by mistake. Everything has been tested to see which demographics it reaches, if it's dumbed down enough to not offend suburbanites, etc. If there are people of colour in a show (not playing criminals) it's because someone complained or a survey showed it would help sell ads, not because the creator of the show is a great person.

What I'm getting at is that the reason this Canada Post ad scares me is the mention of the Far North when it could just as easily been the B.C. interior, a Newfoundland outport village or somewhere in the Gaspésie. This means there are people who don't know that Canada Post delivers bloody everywhere in Canada (hence the snappy name).

This fills me with fear.

*Uncle Cam*

*The half-baked social and political opinions (such as they are) contained within this column are solely the opinion (this week) of the author. In no way do they necessarily represent the views of the McGill Daily, its editors or staff. They may not even represent the opinions of the author, he's just grumpy. Any similarity between these opinions and reality are just a sign of how bad things have got.*



# Give me an X, Give me a T, Give me a C

*Ecstasy brings peace, togetherness, and sensual pleasure, but what you don't know about it can drive you insane*

BY LEA JACOBSON

Montreal's all night festival, Cream, which was attended by an estimated 16,000 people and was deemed by many to be Montreal's rave party of the year, has come and gone. But many people of diverse ethnic and social backgrounds attend smaller yet equally intense raves that take place on a regular basis throughout Montreal and the world.

Those who frequent these all-night

Citing evidence of brain damage, the USFDA made ecstasy illegal in 1987, and other countries were quick to follow. It is currently a Class 1 controlled substance and carries the same legal penalties as LSD and Heroin.

"You hear so much about ecstasy all the time and you want to know what everyone's talking about," said one former drug user. "And plus, when you go out, and see

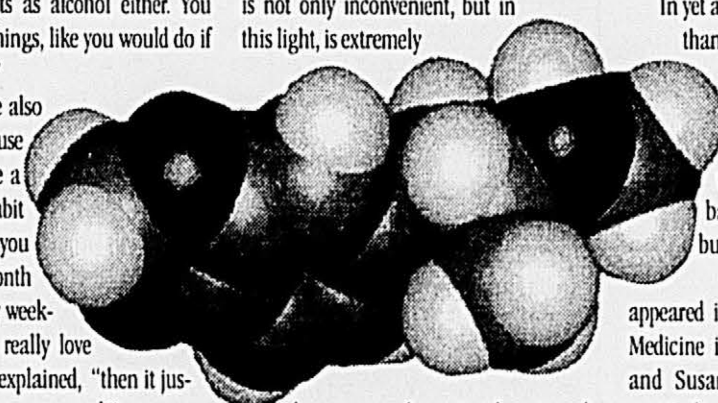
we have become to regard as part of life." The author also describes the effects of the drug as comparable to memories of early childhood, "when [children] would look people in the eye, live for the moment and were free of inhibitions."

## STUPID THINGS

When asked why she prefers to spend 35 dollars on an E pill, rather than less money on more intense drugs, one raver replied, "On ecstasy you're more in control. You're clear headed, you can think, and you can function. Acid and mushrooms alter your state of mind....E doesn't have the same debilitating effects as alcohol either. You don't do stupid things, like you would do if you were drunk."

However, she also admitted, "The use of ecstasy can be a very expensive habit [and] can cost you up to \$100 a month if you do it every weekend. But if you really love the feeling," she explained, "then it justifies all the money you spend."

"You should never have sex on E, because nothing will ever be as good," warns an anonymous informant. It is true that no activity is more commonly associated with the use of ecstasy than casual sex; however, an enhanced sexual desire is not an immediate effect of taking MDMA. In fact, ecstasy tends to inhibit erections in males as well as suppress orgasms. Such evidence is supported



by the view of a party-goer, who explained, "You don't have to worry about weird guys coming on to you at raves. It's not like bars or clubs where you're there to meet people and it's a total meat market. Everyone is just there to have fun." In spite of this, 89 per cent of ecstasy users who took part in a London survey reported sexual arousal as a result of the drug, while 67 per cent claimed to engage in sexual activity. One possible explanation for these contradictory findings is that sexual activity on ecstasy can be attributed to the enhanced feeling of emotional closeness fostered by the drug, rather than resulting from an increased sexual drive.

"People on ecstasy become more sensual and less lustful," writes Saunders. It is also possible that experiences may vary from user to user. "Some people fiend for sex while they're on it," articulated one such user, "but personally, it's never really done anything for me."

## POTENTIAL DANGERS

However, one aspect of ecstasy that most users are ignorant of and is barely touched upon in Saunders' book is its potential dangers. It is fitting that since people take ecsta-

sy for both its physical and emotional stimulation, the designer drug's harmful consequences fall into both categories as well.

Most ecstasy users admit to becoming extremely thirsty and dehydrated after taking a pill, yet most do not realize how imperative it is to satisfy this thirst, since the primary cause of immediate death associated with ecstasy is dehydration. The risk seems more feasible when we remember that while constantly dancing to the relentless beat of techno or house music in a hot and crowded area for an extended period of time, one can forget about one's own bodily needs. The fact that the price of beverages is so ridiculously high at raves in Montreal is not only inconvenient, but in this light, is extremely

tute of Mental Health, it was reported that seven years after being exposed to a four-day sample of MDMA, every monkey in a series of laboratories all over the world had shown signs of irreversible damage. The scientists at Johns Hopkins concluded that ecstasy users are susceptible to mood and sleep disturbance, aggressive tendencies, and anxiety.

Last December, a similar experiment was done on 30 human volunteers in London involving tests and brain scans. It produced results showing comparable damage and reported instances of memory loss, concentration problems, eating disorders, and depression.

In yet another study done in Italy, more than half of the 150 participants who had tried ecstasy at least once suffered from depression, impulse control disorders, social phobia, cognitive disturbances, psychotic disorders, and bulimic episodes.

On May 6, 1999, an article appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in which doctors Scott Mintzer and Susan Hickenbottom attributed a man's diagnosis with Parkinson's disease to his ingestion of MDMA. The patient had trouble walking and lost the ability to write or drive. He could neither continue with his job nor live independently.

With respect to the long-term effects of ecstasy, the user may employ the saying "what comes up, must come down," though, in this particular case, the equa-

**"You should never have sex on E, because nothing will ever be as good."**

studies could not be more ominous.

Behind all the friendship, virtual falling in love, sex, supermen, and childhood memories, the fact is that every one of these feelings and actions is caused by an increased level of serotonin, a chemical in the brain that controls mood. Throughout the past year, medical journals all over the world have been filled with information on this chemical and many studies claim to have proven that ecstasy's effect on serotonin poisons the brain's pathways. Such findings classify MDMA as a neurotoxic substance.

Though the initial response of the body to MDMA increases the level of serotonin, after the immediate effects of the drug wear off, the chemical is actually reduced, and this leads to lethargy and depression. The outcomes of recent experiments all point to the notion that this depletion is not a temporary condition. In other words, users consider their experience with ecstasy to be social, harmonious, and sensual, but they may suffer devastating emotional repercussions later in life.

Recent tests on animals, particularly monkeys, conducted at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the US National Institute of Mental Health produced distressing results. At the US National insti-

tion seems hardly proportionate.

"Maybe if we saw someone who was doing E for the past 10 years and they were all messed up, then yeah, maybe we'd get scared and stop doing it," said an informant. "But so far that hasn't happened." Either that, or we haven't looked.

After being informed of the many long term dangers of the drug, a former ecstasy user commented, "You don't know what is in it and you don't know what you're doing to yourself. We don't even know the exact effect of it because it's our generation's drug."

I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

**"You don't know what is in it and you don't know what you're doing to yourself. We don't even know the exact effect of it because it's our generation's drug."**

events call themselves ravers and are distinguished by their passion for techno, house, and trance music, as well as an unparalleled affection for the drug ecstasy. "The most attractive aspect of a rave," explained one such raver, "is the friendliness of all the people there. There is nowhere you could go and feel like you don't fit in."

This increased sense of amiability is apparent at these parties however, one cannot help but notice the connection between such sentiments and the widespread drug use, which above all seems to characterize raves. The all-night parties play host to a vast array of illegal substances. But ecstasy, which is consumed by millions of young people in North America alone every weekend, is overwhelmingly the drug of choice.

"I've heard it is a mixture of all sorts of bad drugs, like acid and speed and heroin," commented one drug user. Another suggested that "there's speed and cocaine in it, but lately there's been much more speed." Consequently, both individuals are incorrect.

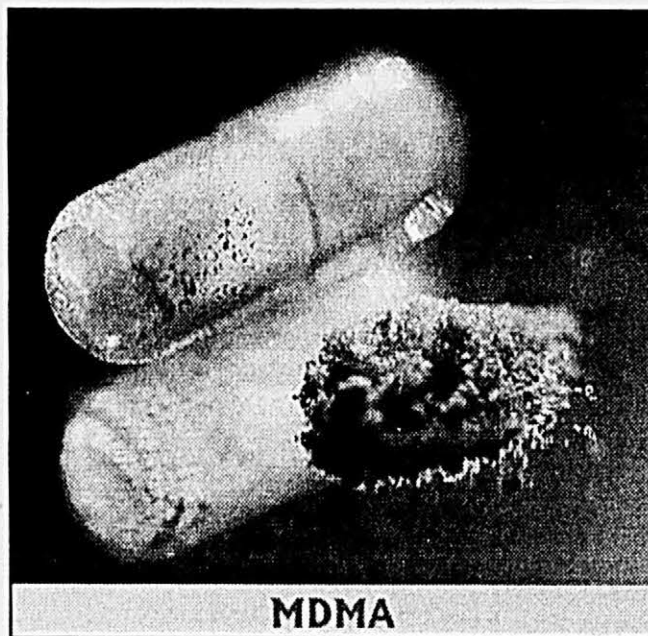
Ecstasy is composed of the chemical compound methylenedioxy-methylamphetamine. More easily pronounced MDMA, the drug belongs to the same chemical family as amphetamines and the hallucinogen mescaline. This chemical makeup enables it to act simultaneously as both a hallucinogen and a stimulant.

## LOVEDRUG

MDMA was first synthesized in 1914 as a means of facilitating communication in psychotherapy sessions and, after its brief and unsuccessful marketing as a diet pill in 1953, it resurfaced on the world club scene in the mid-1980s, taking on the street names E, X, Adam, Lovedrug, and XTC.

some guy standing in a corner who appears to be the happiest person in the world just because he is rubbing his fingers up and down his arms like crazy, you're going to be like, 'I have to try this stuff.'"

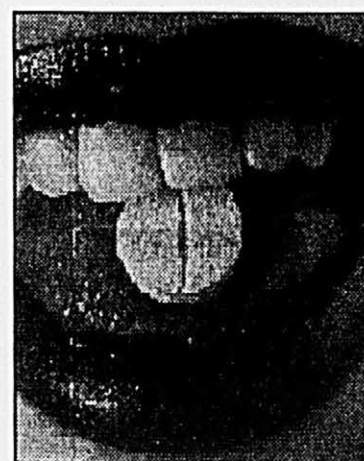
Effects of taking the designer drug begin within 30 minutes of ingestion and, on average, lasts four to six hours. Ecstasy is said to increase sensations of touch and sound and intensify passions including empathy, understanding, and amiability. Nicholas Saunders, in his book entitled *E Is For Ecstasy* writes, "The drug's various effects can be reduced to two primary



effects, one physical and one mental: the relief of muscular tension and the dissolution of fear. The most similar experience familiar to most people is being in love."

"Being on a speedy pill is one of the greatest feelings in the world," commented another drug user. "You feel like you're superman. The feeling comes all over you, and it's like a total rush."

Another apparent effect of ecstasy is the freeing of inhibitions. "It's a social drug," said the same informant. "It makes people more outgoing. They're not held back anymore and they'll do things that they normally wouldn't do." Saunders agrees: "People on Ecstasy feel able to move and to express themselves freely, so the drug provides a taste of living without the restraints





# The Big Business of Biotech

*Farmers, consumers and NGOs question legitimacy of GM foods*

BY ZACH DUBINSKY

The business of genetic engineering has enjoyed tremendous growth in the last four years despite opposition from groups concerned about public health, consumer rights and environmental safety.

Companies that develop and sell genetically modified (GM) crops such as corn, soya beans, and canola now account for over 20 million hectares of North American fields, a seventeen-fold increase since 1995. And these companies are pushing their way into Europe, Asia, and Africa as well. With ongoing research into GM rice and wheat staples, The McKinsey Quarterly reports that "The world is about to witness a (food crop) revolution."

GM producers are proud of their accomplishments. "We may end up with prescription foods or prescription diets. We may have Monsanto diet number three, for example," said Robert Shapiro, President and CEO of international GM giant Monsanto Inc.

Monsanto and its corporate siblings have said that overall, GM foods will be beneficial to human and environmental health. They argue that because GM crops are hardier, they require less land to grow the same amount of food as non-modified varieties. This helps prevent soil erosion and increases yields. Genetic engineering can produce cancer-fighting broccoli and potatoes and sugar fit for dieters, they contend. And crops engineered to be resistant to herbicides and/or to fight insects will eliminate need for huge quantities of fertilizers.

"Monsanto's Bollgard cotton saved the spraying of the equivalent of a quarter-million gallons of formulated insecticide products in the United States in 1996," wrote Monsanto Canada's Vice President Ray Mowling recently.

But the altruism of for-profit biotechnology firms have been questioned in recent years. Last year, DNA Plant Technology Corp. of Oakland, California, agreed to plead guilty to conspiring to grow and improve tobacco with a high nicotine content which is illegal in the United States. When the Associated Press investigated, it found that 18 Brazilian farmers had been growing the crop for five years. According to the Food and Drug Administration, the high nicotine tobacco was found in five of Brown & Williamson's American cigarette brands, including three "light" cigarettes, advertised to be healthier.



Robert Shapiro, CEO and President of Monsanto Inc.

Monsanto has angered just about everyone in Europe's food industry — consumers, producers, scientists, and governments — as well as health-food lobbyists in North America, by deliberately mixing its GM soya beans with unaltered soya beans, making it impossible for purchasers to distinguish between them. In Europe, a potential market of \$141 billion might have inticed the company. On both continents, soy is used in about 60 per cent of all processed foods in ingredients such as lecithin.

Greenpeace also reported in September

ground. A similar effort in the Balkan nation, Georgia, was exposed by Greenpeace last year.

## "It's ALL OVER"

Not all farmers are satisfied with the company, either. One farmer who isn't so pleased is Saskatoon's Percy Schmeiser. Last year, Schmeiser was notified that Monsanto had launched a lawsuit against him for patent infringement. To Schmeiser's apparent surprise, Monsanto had found its patented and heavily-guard-

**"We may end up with prescription foods or prescription diets. We may have Monsanto diet number three, for example."**

that Monsanto had violated environmental laws in the Ukraine by importing and planting GM potatoes from Prince Edward Island. The potatoes were "disguised" as field tests and planted at seven Ukrainian sites in 1997 and 1998, despite the fact that Monsanto had not conducted a mandatory environmental impact assessment. The company eventually abandoned the project and buried the harvested potatoes in the

ed Roundup Ready Canola in his fields. Schmeiser, who hadn't paid Monsanto to license the crop, insists that he didn't plant it. Rather, he claims, the seeds were blown into his fields from one of the other canola farms that surround his. He is countersuing for trespass and damages.

"It's in the ditches and the roadsides, it's in the shelterbelts, it's in the gardens," complained Schmeiser about the GM canola. "It's all over."

The case could be a watershed for GM companies. If Schmeiser wins, Monsanto's ability to protect its multi-billion dollar investment will be severely compromised. Any number of the 600 North American farmers the company is presently suing could maintain that Monsanto soy bean or canola seeds blew onto their fields, guided by nature alone.

Typically, Monsanto licenses its Roundup Ready Canola — a GM strain that includes genes from a virus, a bacterium, and a petunia — in a renewable one-year contract with farmers that prohibits

the replanting of any seeds in the following season. To ensure compliance, contractees must permit Monsanto to inspect their crop for the three years following the deal. The company alleges that Schmeiser bought Roundup Ready seeds from local growers and planted it in 1997 and 1998.

The advantage of Roundup Ready is that it is the only brand resistant to Monsanto's all purpose herbicide Roundup. Instead of spraying their fields several times a year with a cocktail of pesticides, farmers can eliminate all unwanted wildlife in one shot.

But the contract terms have provoked the indignation of activists who perceive that Third World farmers will either be out-competed by cheaper, foreign GM crops or forced to enslave themselves to multinational GM businesses.

## UNABLE TO COMPETE

"This will add to hunger," said environmental activist Vandana Shiva, Director of New Delhi's Science and Technology Research Institute. "Millions of small farmers without access to the technologies or to global markets will be unable to compete."

The issue of world food supply is one of the central arguments GM businesses have preferred. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that forty years ago, chronic undernutrition plagued nearly half of all developing countries. Thanks to a doubling in world food production since then, the level has fallen to about 20 per cent today. In order to feed the additional 2.5 billion mouths that will exist by 2030, biotechnology companies argue that food production must be buttressed by their "super rice," which yields 25 to 50 per cent more grain.

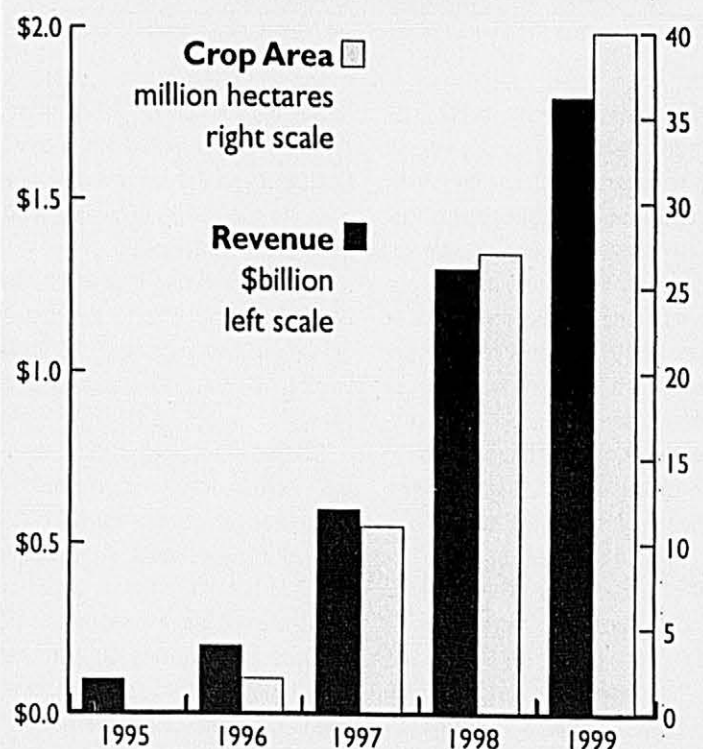
But the FAO had hoped to eliminate hunger in the 1970s. What it didn't count on is the great paradox of world hunger: As many as 840 million people today are malnourished, yet there are huge surpluses in net global food production.

Hunger was once considered a problem of insufficient food production, but the FAO now sees it as a complex of several superficially unrelated factors: ethnic conflicts, environmental degradation, social customs, and government corruption. For example, the government of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto has been accused of laundering millions of dollars from a rice-trading operation designed to help the country's hungry.

And even if food production is an important factor, there are better ways to address it. For instance Guatemala, a country where 75 per cent of infants are malnourished, exports forty million pounds of meat to the U.S. every year. If the land for the grain fed to the meat-yielding animals were sown with crops for human consumption, 16 times more food could be produced. This is because the average vegetarian diet requires seven times less land than that of an omnivore. The most efficient way to produce more food is to eat less meat.

An even more striking solution might soon be available. A pioneering hydroponic agriculture system invented by an Israeli agronomist uses only water and a small amount of electricity to grow crops, and could revolutionize farming. The 12-by-2.5 metre shipping container doesn't use harmful pesticides or fertilizers and in test studies produced 500 heads of lettuce per day, a 1,000-fold increase in efficiency over the most productive current farm systems. If the promise of this invention proves true, we may avoid the GM controversy once and for all.

## GM Food Takes Off



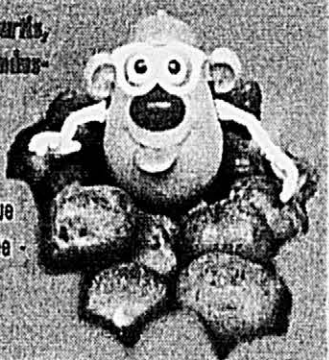
## Fear of Frankenfood

Part 1:  
The GM food scare in the UK and Europe - Oct. 14

Part 2:  
The science and side effects of GM - Oct. 18

Part 3:  
Monsanto, Novartis, or all the GM industry - today

Part 4:  
Oh Canada: our true GM strong and free - Oct. 25





# The Girl in the Picture Tells Her Story

*Denise Chong's new book documents the life of Kim Phuc*

THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE  
DENISE CHONG  
PENGUIN BOOKS, \$35.00

On June 8, 1972, South Vietnamese planes dropped napalm just outside the village of Trang Bang, Vietnam. Just as nine-year-old Kim Phuc, her flesh burning from napalm, ran naked and screaming from the planes, a picture was taken by photographer Nick Ut which would change her life forever and immortalize her as "the girl in the picture."

This famous picture was published in countless newspapers worldwide and won a number of international photography awards. But most importantly it became a symbol of the horrors of the Vietnam War, and provided a tool for the anti-war movement.

Canadian writer Denise Chong captures the story of Phuc in her recently released biography *The Girl in the Picture*. The book begins with an image of Phuc's childhood prior to the turmoil of war. Following the napalm attack, Phuc was treated at a hospital in Saigon for third-degree burns to 30 to 35 per cent of her body and cleaning her wounds daily is described by Chong as inflicting a "wound to the soul" and akin to being "flayed alive." She would later be diagnosed with respiratory problems and diabetes as a result of the

against involvement in the Vietnam War. Even today this picture has the ability to move people.

"When I attend events where Kim's the speaker, she is being introduced and people see the image, and I see people's eyes well up with tears," said Chong. "And it doesn't matter what she says, people give her a standing ovation."

Chong reasoned that the picture gained so much attention because it graphically exposed people's worst fears.

"[The photo] crystallized what was already in the public's mind," said Chong. "Plus I think it's her naked vulnerability, and the child, and it's the expression on her face and that of her brother who's in the foreground. It's that silent scream of anguish."

Another compelling aspect of Chong's book is the ambiguity with which she describes the picture's effect on Phuc's life. On one hand, she owes her life to the picture, as it was the photographer who drove her to the hospital in Saigon and ensured she receive the necessary medical care. It was also because of her fame from the picture that she was able to travel abroad and eventually escape to Canada.

However, Phuc has equally been victimized by this photograph. For years, she was used as a propaganda tool by the Communist regime, never allowed to

war, or to condemn American intervention in Vietnam.

However, she does not lay blame, but rather chooses to promote peace and forgiveness. "She has the attitude that the bomb just dropped out of the sky," according to Chong. While still in Vietnam, she converted to Christianity, and has since turned to religion and faith for support in life.

In a Veterans' Day speech, Phuc announced, "Even if I could talk face-to-face with the pilot who dropped the bombs I would tell him we cannot change history but we should try to do good things for the present and for the future to promote peace."

Following the ceremony she was introduced to John Plummer, allegedly responsible for ordering the napalm attack. His only words were, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry." And hers, "I forgive, I forgive."

Chong also discussed the many challenges involved with writing the book. She faced the difficulty of having to probe a child's memory for information. To research the book Chong spent a month in Vietnam and three weeks in Cuba. To complicate matters more, Kim and her family had never openly discussed the war, since both during and following the war they had known that the less that they said, the safer they were.

"[Phuc's parents] had never spoken the words 'Viet Cong' aloud before," said Chong.

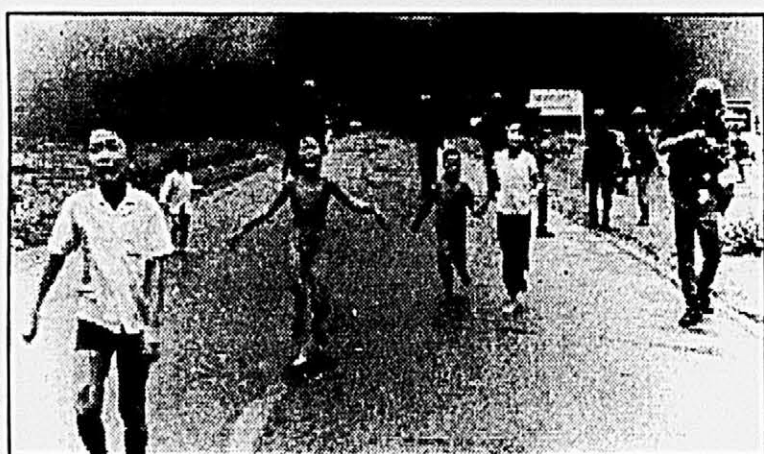
*The Girl in the Picture* appeals to a wide variety of interests. Throughout the story Chong follows the major events and settings that are the background of Phuc's life in Vietnam and Cuba, providing great insight to the history and politics of both countries. The book also presents a true story of a family living through war, poverty and Communism.

On a more profound level, Kim's philosophy of forgiveness is inspiring. The book has the ability to educate the reader in many respects, while telling a very powerful and moving story.

Certainly, the book portrays the identity and story of a girl we have all seen. We finally know who she really is and what has become of her since the war. The girl who for so long was known to most as simply an image and a symbol can now have her story told on her own terms.

However, despite this book and her ability to speak freely for the first time, Kim will never really be able to shed her identity as "the girl in the picture." As Denise Chong wrote, "Her identity is linked inextricably to that image. That photograph is the commanding, organizing presence in her life and I think it always will be."

—Aislinn Bondy



Photographer Nick Ut's famous photo of Kim Phuc fleeing napalm bomb explosion

attack.

Phuc studied medicine in Tay Ninh, where she was used by the government as a propaganda tool and frequently obliged to travel for public appearances. She eventually convinced the government to allow her to study in Cuba, and while returning from her honeymoon in Moscow in 1992, did not re-board her plane, which stopped to refuel in Gander, Newfoundland. Chong concludes the story with Phuc's decision to make her story public in Toronto, where she now resides with her husband Bui Huy Toan and two children.

What is fascinating about the Phuc story is the phenomenal power one photograph had to change her life, and perhaps the course of history itself. In the West, the picture fueled the movement

decline any of her public appearances. Making her story and her present whereabouts in Canada public was a mixed blessing: it provided her a needed meal ticket, but subjected her to constant media attention and harassment.

According to Chong, Phuc would have preferred not to be the "girl in the picture." "If she could have her wish she would probably wish that it would go away," said Chong.

The book also addresses the powerful and healing effect of forgiveness. Through all the suffering which Kim has endured, as a direct result of the napalm itself and from the attention caused by the photograph, she has acquired a very religious and forgiving attitude. She could easily have used her media attention to raise awareness of the effects of

# Three Steps to Sucking

*The ageless art of putting it off*

BY JOHN ORTVED

I made a collage this week, but that's all I did. I had no less than three midterms in two days, but through my phenomenal ingenuity and unmatched procrastination, I was able to avoid studying completely. The last of these midterms is tomorrow and, instead of studying, I've decided to help out my fellow students in an area where they normally can't get help. Because when it comes to procrastination, you're normally on your own. At least until now. The Art Dummy is here to help.

The art of procrastination was developed in ancient Phoenicia where shipbuilders, paid by the week, worked on a ship, and would delay the amount of time invested in each project, maximiz-

supremacist league, join the Communists, join Greenpeace, hell, even join CollegeClub. If your immediate surroundings don't provide the necessary temptation, the outside world and its countless organizations will. If there is a cheap flight to Vegas, take it. You can come back on the red-eye and be in class a half-hour early. Never underestimate the power of student standby and just what it can add to your procrastination program.

Step three involves your immediate surroundings. You've committed to locking yourself in your room. You will not be disturbed by anyone. Great, you don't need to be. Entertain yourself. Computers can provide excellent dis-

“Procrastination is by no means a lost art, just an art with a tarnished reputation, like scapegoating and midget wrestling.”

ing their total revenue. Procrastination is by no means a lost art, just an art with a tarnished reputation, like scapegoating and midget wrestling. Do not be mistaken; despite its infamy, procrastination is alive and well.

It is 7 o'clock now and I am quite drunk. Step one in procrastination is complete. Alcoholism is key. If you're drunk, you can't do work and, if you do, it's way more fun. Drugs can also fill this void, but for either one, make sure to start early (you want to be too messed up to study, but you also want to make it to your exam).

Step two is the resistance of resisting temptation. The art of procrastination is flawed by our natural instinct to resist temptation. Forget that. You must resist the urge to resist. If there's a party in your rez, hit it. If there's a part on your block, stop by, even if you weren't invited. The worst that can happen is they won't let you in, which provides the perfect depressive opportunity to go drinking. Only, if it's just for a beer or two, you won't stay long, you'll just say hello (refer to step one). Another option is to check out the many billboards around campus. Join the local white

tractions (games, porn, downloading music, internet art, etc.), but hey, while you've got time, why not spruce up the place. I went for the collage. I wasted hours of time, placing meaningless photographs of people I won't remember on my walls. My current *chef d'oeuvre* measures 3-by-4 feet, all pictures. I will eventually have to tear down my mural and discard every photograph displayed, but hey, at least I wasn't studying. So you don't have any photographs? No problem. Collages aren't the only option. You could paint something, decorate your fridge, decorate eggs, create phone book architecture, call strangers, order falafel to people you know, practice your impromptu seizure routine in front of the mirror, act out Schwarzenegger roles, sew, polish your various weapons, teach that damned chessboard who's been staring at you a lesson. The possibilities of procrastination, even in a confined space, are absolutely endless.

Drunken avoidance, timely temptations, and internal distractions are the essence of the art of procrastination. Procrastination is an art all us dummies can appreciate.



# Re-opening Celebration MULTIMEDIA EXTRAVAGANZA

## DJ'S

Wednesday, Oct. 20th	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	<b>UZI</b> Underground Productions <b>ONE PERCENT FREE</b> Hydrophonic
Thursday, Oct. 21st	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>ANN-MARIE</b> deep Productions <b>MAUS</b> Majis factory <b>RO B-NÉ</b> Montreal
Friday, Oct. 22nd	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>JOJO FLORES</b> Rotations/Soundcheck/BassHedz <b>ARKIN ALLEN</b> Goldenhorn Records/Interchill <b>+SCOTT RUSSEL</b> (percussionist)
Saturday, Oct. 23rd	from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<b>LUV</b> Ninja Tune <b>WIG</b> Ninja Tune

## LIVE PAINTING

Wednesday, Oct. 20th	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	<b>ANDERS</b> Montreal
Thursday, Oct. 21st	from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>TOMATE</b> Elastik
Friday, Oct. 22nd	from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>CARLITO DALCEGGIO</b> /THE MAKERS
Saturday, Oct. 23rd	from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<b>HEAVYWEIGHT PRODUCTIONS</b> Montreal

## VISUALS

(TV's, giant screens, computers)

Wednesday, Oct. 20th	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	<b>CINETIK</b> Montreal <b>PARANO STUDIO</b> Montreal
Thursday, Oct. 21st	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>CINETIK</b> Montreal <b>PURFORM</b> Montreal
Friday, Oct. 22nd	from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.	<b>PARANO STUDIO</b> Montreal <b>HORATIO</b> Montreal
Saturday, Oct. 23rd	from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<b>PARANO STUDIO</b> Montreal <b>CHEVYVAN</b> Elastik

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# A Passenger With Places To Go

*Tara MacLean's new album shows musical maturity*

BY GABE FLORES

Touring with such musical luminaries as fellow Nettwerk singer Sarah MacLachlan, Natalie Merchant, and Liz Phair was bound to have a profound effect on Tara MacLean in the last Lilith Fair. Now, on a whirlwind tour of Canada promoting her latest album, *Passenger*, MacLean's presence on stage has a tinge of Chantal Kreviazuk without the piano. She begins each song with slight apprehension, almost hesitant to unleash the true emotion behind her lyrics.

Working with a stripped-down band consisting of a guitarist and percussionist, MacLean's maturation as an artist since her debut album, *Silence*, is quite evident. Expanding her repertoire to include a French song, written by her best friend entitled *Le Tempete*, she says that it was the next logical step for her, considering



*Tara MacLean at The Jello Bar*

that she "feels like I have to use my French or else I'll forget it." It therefore came as no surprise that *Le Tempete*

received the loudest applause from the intimate, yet preoccupied Jello Bar crowd last night.

MacLean has been featured on the Lilith Fair compilation and has recorded songs for soundtracks including *Teaching Miss Tingle* and *Inventing the Abbotts*. She has opened for everyone from The Barenaked Ladies to Garbage, garnering exposure most artists her age would be envious of. There is no doubt that Nettwerk, her record label, will be grooming her to become the next MacLachlan, but she is quick to dismiss the comparison. "Sure we're both from the Maritimes, but I've got a ways to go." Of course, the void left by MacLachlan may seem insurmountable, but if the past two years are any indication, MacLean's *Passenger* may be the big

break.

MacLean compensates for what she

every venue hers for the few hours she performs. That said, the combination of a folk

sound with frenetic percussion doesn't do justice to MacLean's live performance.

Unfortunately, one of the side-effects of Lilith Fair has been a saturation of female singers. Wielding the same sound, playing the same chords, Jewel and Alanis clones have created a market glut.

Therefore, MacLean's ethereal sound is a welcome and relaxed respite. Look for MacLean to make another stop in Montreal in early 2000.



*MacLean with her band*

may lack in a unique vocal sound with songwriting and with lyrics far beyond her 25 years. At home on the stage in front of an arena audience or an intimate club, MacLean has the advantage of making

## Hour-Glass of Anguish

*Death and passage of time central to show*

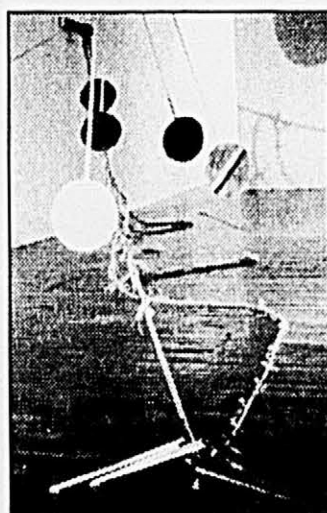
BY SARAH COHEN

**H**our-Glass of Anguish is not a sequel to *The Blair Witch Project*, or the title of the latest Stephen King novel. It is the name of Joelle Morosoli's current exhibition, located in one of the galleries of the Observatoire 4 de Montreal.

Five pendulums oscillate precariously above a menacing chafed cord. A lighting system set on the floor projects shadows of the pendulum's movement on the walls. This kinetic construction and all its components are arranged together to express the dominant themes in the artist works: death,

time, oppression and anguish.

The main characteristic of Joelle Morosoli's art is the use of movement. Through motion, she tries to integrate a forth dimension to the sculpture: time. Five aluminum disc pendulums hang at the end of a straight wire, oscillate at varying speeds, and thus emphasize the various perceptions of the passage of time. The increasingly rapid movement translates into the idea that day after day, time quickens and that pursuing it is useless, as no one can slow it down. Just like no one can prevent a stretched cord from



*Anguish incarnate*

breaking. Brilliant philosophical comment.

Joelle Morosoli seems to be obsessed by death and time and involving the spectators in her feelings (her "morose" last name perhaps reflects this life perspective). She forces gallery-goers to walk through menacing shadows scaling the walls, while trying to avoid the balancing, guillotine-like pendulums.

The artist once said that "the strongest emotion passes compulsorily by movement." Her work succeeded in reflecting this philosophy. When you enter the gallery,

you are seized with a feeling of imprisonment and panic. It is a unique and interesting artistic work, which manages to mix the esthetic, the technical, and the deeply reflective.

*Hour-Glass of Anguish (Le Sablier de l'Angoisse)* is on view until November 13th in gallery 425 at 372 Ste-Catherine West. The gallery opens between 11:30 and 5:30, Wednesday to Saturday. Free admission.

## Off the Darkroom Floor



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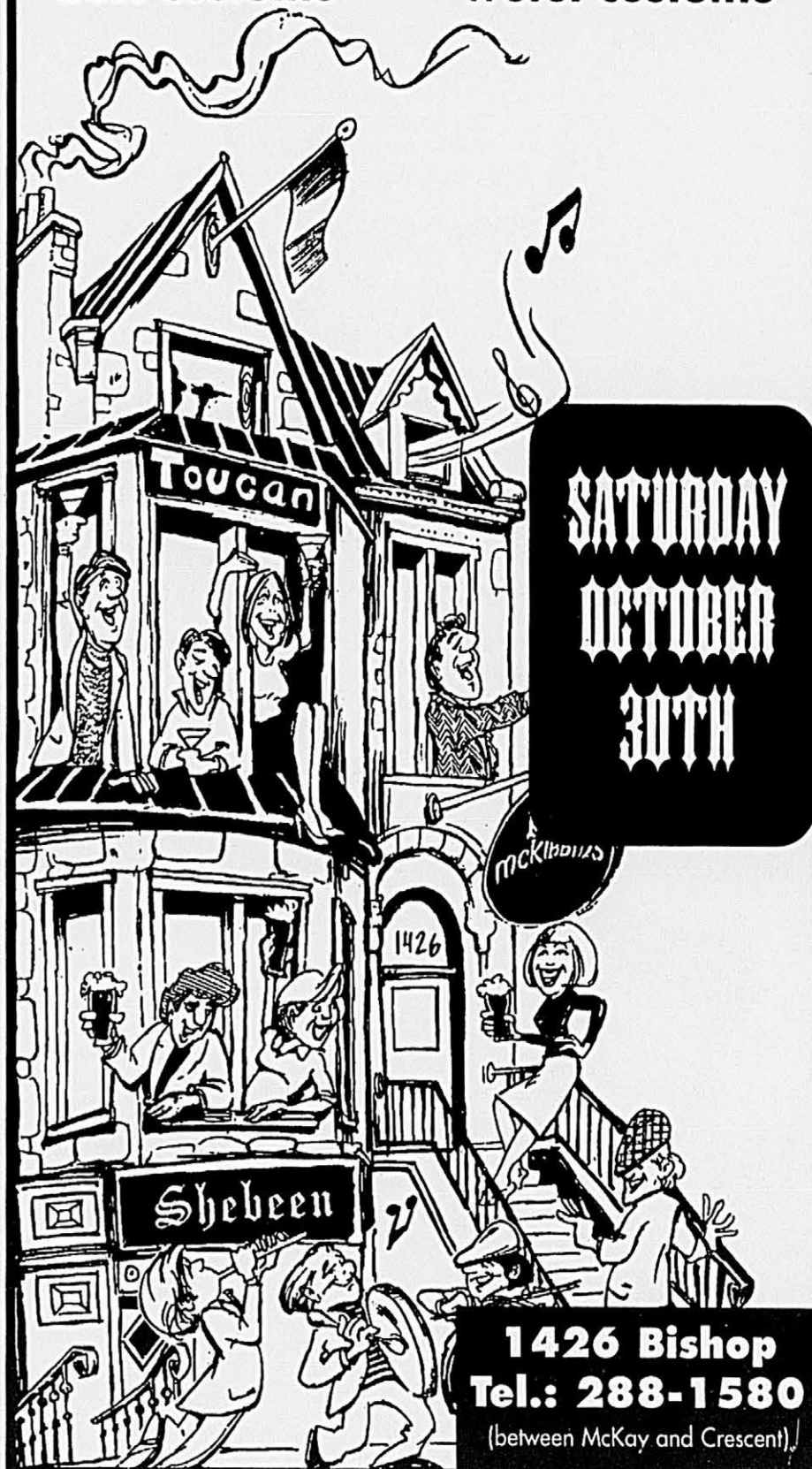
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# Lesbians to the Rescue

*It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a lesbian helper! How dykes are saving the world*

BY JANE SHULMAN

**M**ONTREAL (CUP) - You're wandering through the forest, lost and alone. The trail of crumbs you left is long gone and you can't find your way home. To make matters worse, you're out of food and water, it's getting dark, and you have to pee. Just when you think all hope is

lost you see something out of the corner of your eye. It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a Lesbian Helper!

Melissa Levin came to the rescue a few years ago when she helped a couple of lost girls find the church group from which they had strayed during a camping trip.

As she walked away, she wished she had said, "Remember girls you've been helped by a lesbian."

Not long after that, Levin started the Lesbian Helpers as her Master's thesis at the Art Institute of Chicago. When she moved to Toronto last year she brought the idea with

her.

There are now about 100 Lesbian Helpers.

Levin makes and sells Lesbian Helper kits. The starter kit includes a badge, 20 business cards, and all the information you need to get started. The cards, which read "You have been assisted by a Lesbian Helper," are distributed to the beneficiary of a lesbian helper's good deed.

"We've always been there" is the group's slogan, and Levin says Lesbian

make positive associations with the community.

The system is modeled after the Girl Guides. Lesbian Helpers can earn badges and sew them onto the Lesbian Helper sash. Badges are awarded for skills like first aid and automotive help or for such good deeds as lost and found, recruiting, and improving lesbian visibility.

Levin wants to show people that lesbians aren't necessarily immediately visible.



*Lesbianism: it might just save your life*

Helpers are concerned about putting a positive spin on societal stereotypes about lesbianism.


"You have to capitalize on those small moments when someone feels good about who you are in the world," said Levin.

She points out that lesbians get lots of bad press and she wants to help people

As a lesbian who has long hair and sometimes wears lipstick, she says it doesn't occur to people that she could be a lesbian, because she doesn't look the stereotypical part.

"I wanted to add some femme visibility," Levin said. "We don't get seen - even by dykes. That's changing now, but the

“ You have to capitalize on those small moments when someone feels good about who you are in the world. ”



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straight world doesn't see that."

Badges are just the beginning. There's also an extensive product line geared to infiltrate people's homes and offices and carry a positive lesbian message.

There are rulers and pens bearing the group's slogan and lavender emery boards because "no lesbian should be on a date without one."

While the Lesbian Helpers have a serious message, there's clearly an element of campiness to the operation.

"Yeah, it's definitely tongue-in-cheek," Levin acknowledged. "The lesbian community can have a sense of humour."

Levin points out that the gay male community has always been playful, and she's "interested in having some lesbian camp."

To become a Lesbian Helper or to learn more, e-mail Melissa Levin at [lesbelp@yahoo.com](mailto:lesbelp@yahoo.com).